

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Human rights advocates cool conversion battle in Kuwait

By Marty Croll

WASHINGTON (BP) — With a Kuwaiti Christian's flight to the United States and a Kuwaiti government statement supporting religious freedom, human rights advocates are easing back from a battle with the Middle Eastern nation — at least for now.

A coalition led by more than 90 members of the U.S. Senate and House has worked to convince Kuwait's ruling family that the country's constitution must be enforced despite a Muslim court's ruling for the Kuwaiti Christian's execution.

A coalition representative told Baptist Press in late August that many on Capitol Hill appreciate Kuwait's public statement that Kuwaiti citizens will be protected in their right to practice whatever religion they choose. They feel they have accomplished their aim, the representative said.

The coalition wrote letters on numerous occasions to Kuwait's emir, crown prince, and ambassador, plus President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Several of them met personally with Kuwaiti Ambassador Mohammed S. Al-Sabah in Washington. Senior U.S. State Department officials

met repeatedly with Kuwaiti officials.

At issue: would Kuwait strip Robert Hussein, 44, of his legal rights to citizenship simply because he became a Christian? In June, Muslim family court judge Jaafar Al-Qazveeni ruled to strip Hussein of his rights, but didn't stop there. He also quoted Muslim law saying Hussein should be killed by Muslim leaders for his allegiance to Jesus Christ.

The Hussein spectacle has brought nothing but embarrassment to Kuwait's ruling family. The government has had to fight for breathing room between the stifling pressures of the international community that helped defend it from Iraq scarcely more than five years ago and extremist Muslims who believe constitutional law must be interpreted in the context of Islam.

After more than a month of outcry from the West, the Kuwaiti government finally went public in the case. The same government-supported newspapers that had blasted Hussein for months printed excerpts of the government's decree that all Kuwaiti citizens have the right to practice the faith of their choice.

On July 20, all of Kuwait's Arabic daily papers, plus the "Kuwait Times" and "Arab Times," quoted Justice Ministry Under-Secretary Salah Yousuf Bin Ali as saying "freedom of worship for all individuals had been mandated and guaranteed by the Kuwaiti constitution." Further, he stressed, "it is the duty of authorities to provide (Hussein) with protection against any threats."

Many Kuwaitis — secular-minded and only moderate in the Islamic faith — were heartened to see such a pronouncement. Extremists in Kuwait, as in many other traditionally Muslim nations, are a noisy minority.

Human rights sources say the line in Kuwait between its two power structures — constitutional law and Muslim, or *Sharia*, law — is fuzzy at best. One segment among Kuwaiti legislators is calling for the full adoption of *Sharia*. Elections for parliament are in October.

As late as mid-August, several Kuwaiti parliament members were reported to publicly be asking why Hussein had not been put to death. Only days later, on Aug. 17, Hussein fled to the United States with a six-month visa. He has not made public his whereabouts and it is not known when, or if, he will surface.

It is also not known whether he will appear in Kuwait Sept. 15 for a scheduled appeal hearing. At that hearing, he had planned to argue that the Kuwaiti constitution takes precedence over Muslim law in court cases. No one has ever mounted a court challenge to a Kuwaiti law which says only Muslims can be citizens.

For several months Hussein hid for his life with evangelical expatriates in Kuwait,



many of whom relate to the National Evangelical Church of Kuwait. Church leaders, however, stress Hussein maintains no relationship with the church itself and has never submitted himself to discipleship there.

In fact, in recent weeks they publicly denied any connection to him or his actions. The day he left Kuwait, he attempted to schedule a press conference on the church's property. Church leaders blocked him.

While Article 35 of the Kuwaiti constitution clearly states any citizen can practice religion freely, Islamists claim that means only the religion into which they were born. *Sharia* calls for death to anyone who converts from Islam and refuses to repent.

Other Islamic countries are watching to see how Kuwait responds to Hussein's challenge. Evangelical Christians and human rights advocates have seen Hussein as a test case. A decision in favor of freedom for Hussein could pave the way for Kuwait and other Arab nations to allow freedom for other Muslims who are worshipping Jesus Christ secretly.

"Experiencing God" to air in Arabic

LARNACA, Cyprus (BP) — An Arabic-language version of the discipleship program "Experiencing God" is scheduled to be broadcast throughout the Middle East beginning Oct. 28.

The signal will originate from a powerful AM radio station in Cyprus, an island in the Mediterranean Sea. It will be broadcast five days a week in 15-minute segments.

The first-ever broadcast version of the Southern Baptist program was aired over radio waves in Russia in April. Broadcast versions are being developed in 10 languages.

The Foreign Mission Board's (FMB) development office has already raised funds for developing "Experiencing God" broadcasts in several top priority languages: Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, and Special English for Africa. It has yet to raise funds for Spanish or for Special English for Asia.

A publication of LifeWay Press of the Baptist Sunday School Board, "Experiencing God" was written by Henry Blackaby and Claude King. The broadcast version, which closely follows material presented in the workbook, was adapted for radio in a project coordinated by the FMB.

Can't slow down

If anyone deserves a quiet retirement, it's 70-year-old Cuban pastor Reinaldo Medina. Such a prospect seems to be the farthest thing from his mind, however. "Rev. Medina is one of the most dedicated men I know. He does not give up; he keeps on working," said Bill Coffman, director of the Cooperative Program Department at the Florida Baptist Convention. On Feb. 28, 1965, the communist government of Fidel Castro arrested and convicted 51 pastors, missionaries, and Christian laymen on charges of spying for the Central Intelligence Agency. Medina was one of the pastors and for the next 13 years he was moved from prison to prison on the island nation, living most of that time under unspeakable conditions. Still, he organized worship services in prison and circulated Bibles to other inmates. Medina was released in 1991 and emigrated to Florida, where he wrote "The Gospel Behind Bars," detailing his experiences. "When I retired I tried to slow down, but the need is so great I felt I had to do something. The Lord has been with our church, giving us victory in winning souls," Medina said.

Model of unity

Racial misunderstanding and turmoil seem to be running rampant in today's world, but not at one New Orleans church. First United Baptist Church is the product of a merger between Faith in Action Mission in inner city New Orleans and Central Baptist Church, located rather ironically on Jefferson Davis Boulevard. Predominantly African-American in attendance, Faith in Action began in a public housing project, while predominantly white Central found itself in an increasingly transitional neighborhood. Leaders of the two congregations got together in November 1993, and members of the churches were worshipping together in a matter of weeks. The new church is the result of unselfish efforts to "to minister adequately to a changing population...., intentionally building a Christian fellowship that ministers to — and is made up of — people of all races, cultures, social states, and economic levels," said longtime Central member H.B. Wheeler. Marshall Truehill, who is black, and Rod Kirby, who is white, will share pastor duties. "People keep asking me, 'Who's gonna be the boss?' I tell them, 'The Lord Jesus Christ,'" Kirby said.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Members of Priceville Church, Lee Association, vacate their temporary mobile chapel and begin worship in a new \$325,000 facility, one year after a tragic explosion caused one death and heavily damaged the 48-year old church's building.

20 years ago

Due to positive feedback from the public, William Carey College in Hattiesburg once again offers a free evening Bible class to the community, taught by popular longtime Carey religion faculty member William Clawson.

50 years ago

First Church, Philadelphia, contributes another \$2,600 to the Southern Baptist Relief and Rehabilitation Offering for war-ravaged Europe, bringing to over \$4,000 the total amount given by the church to the offering fund.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

WILLIAM H. PERKINS JR.



Our Mississippi legacy

"Prayer was led by Miss Lackey." Thus reads the first mention of Margaret McRae Lackey in the annals of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

How eminently appropriate. The mother of Mississippi Baptists' season of prayer for state missions, who served as state WMU corresponding secretary from 1912-1930, had a reputation for first bathing everything in prayer before setting off to do the Lord's work around her beloved state.

"Sisters, we have done passing well this year. But oh, the untouched multitude of Baptist women and children in Mississippi today whose souls are crying silently yet know not for what they are crying," she wrote in her annual report to WMU members in 1917 — the year after she began the season of prayer for state missions.

The timelessness of that 1917 message cannot be minimized.

"Beloved, figures, however high-sounding they may be, are mere skeletons in the valley of dry bones unless there is breathed into them a spirituality that makes them living, breathing realities," she wrote.

Almost 80 years later, as Mississippi Baptists set giving records at home and across the Southern Baptist Convention, we would do well to remember that exhortation.

So profound was Margaret Lackey's impact on state missions that the offering was named in her honor in 1935.

Could she have foreseen the modern-day magnitude of that which she began so long ago?

The 1996 goal for the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions was a lofty \$705,350. That goal was exceeded by more than \$42,000. The 1996 goal is \$738,000.

The 1996 offering will help fund the state's Baptist assemblies; disaster relief; jail ministries; student work among African-Americans and internationals; and much more.

It seems Mississippi Baptists today believe as strongly in state missions as ever. Our attitude is even reflected in the motto adopted by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board: "Helping Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus."

We long ago realized that we cannot overlook our own backyard

as we seek to provide everyone in the world with the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. That's something Margaret Lackey understood more than three-quarters of a century ago.

In 1946, long retired and 88 years of age, she penned this earnest prayer for state missions:

This week of prayer, we dedicate, dear Lord,

To those whom thou hast honored in thy Word,

As choicest objects of thy love and care;

As foremost subjects of our daily prayer.

Some are so little, Lord, and some so mild,

Some lack sweet comfort of a living God.

We've never taught them much of "staff and rod,"

But all belong to thee, for special care.

And hence we bring them on this week of prayer.

We owe it to all those who went before us, and all those who will come after us, to continue building our Mississippi legacy.

Season of Prayer
for
STATE MISSIONS
1996

State Goal \$750,000

September 3-11, 1996

RISK
THE JOURNEY

...in Mississippi

September marks '96 Season of Prayer for State Missions

By Carl M. White

"Risk the Journey... in Mississippi" is the theme for the 1996 Season of Prayer for the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

This annual effort to fund mission work within the state has been taken since 1903. In 1935, the offering was named for Margaret McRae Lackey, corresponding secretary for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) from 1912 to 1930.

The offering goal for 1996 is \$738,000,

with a challenge goal of an additional \$12,000. Last year's goal of \$705,350 was exceeded by \$42,511.

The challenge portion of the goal would fund the "Start Something New" one-time allocations of up to \$500 for new ministries efforts such as a mission VBS or Backyard Bible Club.

This money will be available on a first-come-first-served basis and only after the offering goal has been met.

The basic goal would fund 12 different mission efforts around the state. These include:

New Missions, \$174,000 — The Mississippi Baptist Convention awards grants for the purchase of property for new work, and also provides mobile chapels to new congregations. There are currently 13 mobile chapels in use around the state.

Disaster Relief, \$35,000 — Last year state mission offering funds were used to purchase a new mass feeding unit, replacing the one in service since 1978.

Volunteers can prepare up to 20,000 hot meals a day from the unit, which also sleeps nine crew members. A smaller unit, which sleeps eight women and is owned by the Mississippi WMU was also put into service in 1995.

When needed, the women's unit provides child care at disaster sites. Parents have much to do after a disaster. Often they need someone who is willing to care for their children.

Both units are ready on a moment's notice.

Special Ministries to Multi-Cultural, \$8,000 — Each year people from all over the world move to Mississippi. There is ministry work to eight different language groups in the state, including work in 30 different Spanish speaking communities.

Parchman Ministry, \$15,000 — Charles Jones directs the ministry at Parchman State Penitentiary in Parchman. Work is done among both inmates and prison employees alike.

Sixteen discipleship classes are held each week for inmates. The state offering provides Bibles and study materials, such as "Survival Kit for New Christians."

Training is provided for volunteers, who must be willing to commit to at least 12 weeks with one or more sessions each week of ministry to inmates.

"Carenotes," which are pamphlets dealing with grief, illness, parenting, depression, substance abuse, prayer, spiritual growth, and interpersonal relationships are provided for prison personnel and their families.

Criminal Justice Ministry, \$15,000 — John Henry, in addition to serving as director of missions for George and Greene Associations in Lucedale, is a volunteer chaplain at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) near Leakesville.

SMCI offers a variety of ministry opportunities on Saturdays.

While parents visit inmates, volunteers work with children in Bible-centered activities. The state mission offering provides leadership training and materials for

these ministries.

International Student Ministry Internships, \$9,000 — Students from all over the world are attending the colleges and universities in Mississippi.

State mission offering funds will be used to provide internships at the three largest state universities (Mississippi State University [MSU], University of Mississippi, and the University of Southern Mississippi).

Each campus will receive \$3000 to help reach and evangelize international students in the state.

International Crossroads Friendship House, \$4,000 — Golden Triangle Association, Starkville, has caught the vision of ministering to the approximately 2,500 internationals in the area by opening the International Crossroads Friendship House.

Located near MSU housing, this ministry reaches across cultural barriers by offering English classes, Bible studies and other activities to international students and their families. State mission funds help advance this exciting ministry.

For more information about "Start Something New," contact the Missions Extension and Associational Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) at the address and telephone numbers below.

For more information on the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions, contact WMU at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

1996 Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering	
Goal: \$738,000	
New Missions	\$174,000
Central Hills Retreat	\$203,000
Camp Garaywa	\$185,000
Disaster Relief	\$ 35,000
Special Ministries to Multicultural	\$ 8,000
Parchman Ministry	\$ 20,000
Criminal Justice Ministry	\$ 15,000
Pastoral/Church Building Aid	\$ 45,000
Student Work, Black Students	\$ 20,000
Multi-Housing Ministries	\$ 10,000
Work with Internationals	
Student Ministry Internships	\$ 9,000
Crossroads Friendship House	\$ 4,000
Mission Awareness	\$ 10,000
Challenge Goal: \$12,000	
Start Something New Ministry	\$ 12,000

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Executive committee okays personnel moves, fund raisings

By Tim Nicholas

The executive committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) approved employee actions, discussed agency audits, heard an update on the disposition of Clarke College property, and approved two special fund raising projects during their Aug. 27 meeting at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

The executive committee hired Mark B. Lott as youth consultant in the MBCB Sunday School Department to replace Sean Keith, who resigned earlier this year to accept a position at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Lott, 40, comes to the board from Carterville Church, Petal, where he served as minister of education for two years.

He has also served as minister of education and youth at Immanuel Church, Pace, Fla.; minister of education and students at

38th Ave. Church, Hattiesburg; minister of education and youth at South 28th Ave. Church, Hattiesburg; and financial secretary and bookkeeper at the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans.

A graduate of Baptist-affiliated William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Lott earned the master of religious education degree from New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans.

He and his wife Susan have a son, Erik, 10.

The executive committee approved the move of Elizabeth Thurmond from her position as associate Baptist Student Union (BSU) director at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville, to BSU



Lott



Thurmond

director at Hinds Community College in Raymond.

She replaces Jeff Powell, who is now BSU director of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton.

A graduate of Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, Thurmond served at Northeast from 1986 to 1989, and from 1992 to the present.

While working on a master of religious education degree at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, she served as assistant to student ministries at First Baptist Church of Trophy Club, Texas.

She has also served as minister of youth and children's choir at First Church,

Booneville, and minister of music and youth at Dumas Church, Dumas.

The executive committee received an audit report from KPMG Peat Marwick that contained an "unqualified opinion," which means that it was a clean audit with no major areas of concern.

The executive committee voted to retain the same firm for next year's audit.

The executive committee also considered the work of a group of volunteers who do audit reviews of agencies and institutions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

All of those audits were listed as clean audits.

The executive committee voted to request from state Baptist agencies copies of management letters from the auditors and the agency executives' responses to those

(See **COMMITTEE** on p. 7)

Youth Evangelism Conference slated for Dec. 30-31 at MC

The annual Youth Evangelism Conference, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) Evangelism Department, will take place Dec. 30-31 at Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton. The theme is "How Deep is the Love of Christ." Featured speaker will be Keith Naylor, youth pastor at Christ Community Church of



Horton

Atlanta. He has co-written "Penetrating the Campus" and "Taking Your Campus for Christ" with Barry St. Clair. Worship leader will be Paul Horton, of Atlanta. Musician Wes King of Nashville will give a concert. His newest album is "Common Creed."

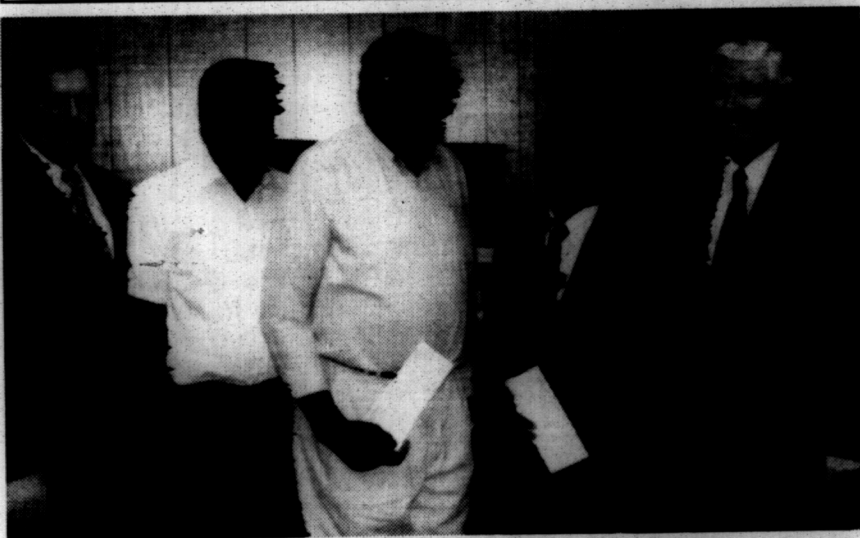
Randall and Arinee Glass of Boynton Beach, Fla., better known as Mog and Wog, will offer dramatic interpretations for the conference. The conference begins at noon on Dec. 30 and concludes at 3 p.m. on Dec. 31. Registration fee is \$5. Free breakfast from 7:15 a.m.-8:30 a.m. on Friday will be provided by MC for all who pre-register. For more information, contact the MBCB Evangelism Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Naylor



King



Rebuilding gifts

The churches of Alcorn Association have presented \$9,651.55 to leaders of the two Alcorn County churches destroyed June 18 by arsonists. The rebuilding gifts, divided equally between the two churches, were made possible by love offerings conducted at 20 member churches of Alcorn Association. Present at the July meeting of the association's executive committee were (from left) Floyd Lamb, association moderator and pastor of Bethlehem Church, Walnut; Trent Dilworth and Billy Dilworth, deacons of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church; Perry Carroll, pastor of Central Grove Missionary Baptist Church; and Ed Gandy, Alcorn Association director of missions. The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has also approved a Church Rebuilding Fund for churches hit by arson.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, September 5, 1996

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MBCB sets 1997 CP budget; messengers will vote in Oct.

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) approved the proposed 1997 state Cooperative Program (CP) budget of \$24,145,086, without a dissenting vote during their regularly-scheduled meeting Aug. 27 at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

The proposed budget faces a final vote before messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention, which will meet at First Church, Jackson, on Oct. 29-30.

The proposed 1997 CP budget represents a 3.71% increase over the 1996 CP budget of \$23,280,984. The 1996 budget is expected to be surpassed by gifts from the nearly 2,000 participating churches in the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The 1997 state CP budget was presented in four sections:

— \$8,933,682 (37%) to Southern Baptist Convention causes;

— \$690,000, (2.86%) to the Mississippi Baptist Convention portion of a shared responsibility in funding the expanded church annuity plan for Mississippi church employees;

— \$6,110,463, (25.31%) to Mississippi Baptist institutions and agencies;

— \$8,410,941 (34.84%) to MBCB causes.

Robert Upchurch of Tupelo, chair of the MBCB budget committee, reported that the budget committee had considered a resolution referred from the 1995 MBC annual meeting that called on the committee to make a priority of increasing the Southern Baptist Convention portion of the budget by one percent per year until the total reaches 40%.

Upchurch said the committee had unanimously decided to make increases to missions in other ways.

He cited as an example that none of the 1997 state CP funds allotted to the future North American Mission Board (NAMB) will be returned to Mississippi for joint mission projects, which frees nearly \$250,000 for NAMB work in pioneer mission areas.

An equivalent amount of \$249,530, has been budgeted by MBCB for home mission work in Mississippi.

Upchurch also cited the challenge portion of the state CP budget — the amount exceeding the established budget — which will be distributed 20% to foreign missions; 10% to home missions; 20% to Mississippi missions; and 50% to Christian education at the three Baptist-affiliated colleges in the state.

The Mississippi missions portion of the challenge would go to help fund the Mississippi Partnership Missions office, led by Bill Hardy.

Current Mississippi Baptist partnerships include Venezuela, Honduras, the state of Colorado, and special non-funded, short term projects conducted by county associations.

Upchurch noted that since 1984, the percentage going to SBC causes has increased from 35% to 37%, while for the same period CP gifts as a percentage of church undesignated gifts has fallen from 11.8% to 10.6%.

Because of the restructuring, disbanding, or merging of seven SBC agencies by mid-1997, those agencies receive vastly different

amounts in the 1997 state CP budget than in previous years:

— SBC operations, \$316,972, a 67.03% increase;

— SBC Foundation (merged), \$8,684;

— the new International Mission Board, \$4,342,076;

— the new North American Mission Board, \$1,838,869;

— Radio-Television Commission (merged), \$169,341;

— Brotherhood Commission (merged), \$29,960;

— home mission work in Mississippi, \$249,530;

— SBC Annuity Board, \$66,000;

— SBC seminaries, \$1,781,988;

— Christian Life Commission (converting to Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission), \$85,973;

— American Baptist Seminary, SBC Education Commission, SBC Historical Commission, and SBC Stewardship Commission (all merged or eliminated), \$44,289.

Mississippi institutions and agencies funding includes \$500,000 to the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village; \$235,000 to the Board of Ministerial Education; \$246,821 to the Christian Action Commission;

\$3,986,170 to Christian Education; \$650,000 to Christian Education capital needs; \$45,216 to the Mississippi Baptist Foundation; and \$165,000 to the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC).

Upchurch said that the Mississippi Baptist Foundation will receive additional funding — \$61,470 more than for 1995 — to fund the new

(See **BUDGET** on p. 7)

Beginning October 1996, two of the Baptist Sunday School Board's three curriculum series will change titles and designs. The "Convention Uniform Series" will become the "Family Bible Series," and the "Bible Book Series" will become the "Explore the Bible Series." The "Life and Work Series," which underwent a design change two years ago, will remain unchanged.

Bible Study Approach	Systematic approach to all the books of the Bible in ways appropriate to the needs of the learners.
Bible Translation	New American Standard Version — Some adult periodicals also use the King James Version (KJV).
Content Selection	Studies from all 66 Bible books.
Target Audience	Covers all the books of the Bible using a curriculum plan driven by Bible structure.
Content Development	Studies are based on the nature, structure, and content of the Bible as a whole and of Bible books in light of the learners' needs.
Resources	Resources are designed for workers who plan alone as well as for workers who plan together for a team approach to Bible study. Electronic teaching plan supplements are provided on SBCNet for teachers.

Bible Study Approach	Focuses on life issues affecting learners and their churches; and on doctrine, ethics, and missions.
Bible Translation	New International Version — Some adult periodicals also use the KJV.
Content Selection	Distinctive content based on the life needs and/or issues affecting that age division.
Target Audience	Developed in light of life age needs and/or issues of preschoolers, children, youths, and all generations of adults who organize by more narrowly-defined age groupings.
Content Development	Developed in light of life needs and/or issues of preschoolers, children, youths, and all generations of adults and how the Bible speaks to these needs and issues.
Resources	Designed for teachers of a closely-graded grouping and who plan with other workers. Electronic teaching plan supplements are provided on SBCNet for teachers of kindergartners, sixth graders, youths, and adults.

Bible Study Approach	Systematic approach to major areas of the Bible, focusing on primary relationships in life.
Bible Translation	King James Version.
Content Selection	Based on the International Sunday School lessons. Generally, all age groups study the same text, but occasionally alternate.
Target Audience	Designed primarily for preschoolers, children, youths, and adults in churches that want common Bible study themes for all age groups and an international focus on families and relationships.
Content Development	Based on the Bible passage in light of preschoolers', children's, youths', and adults' needs and learning readiness for the content.
Resources	Resources are designed for workers who teach a multi-age grouping and who often plan alone. Electronic teaching plan supplements are provided weekly for youth and adult leaders on SBCNet.

Major changes coming in Sunday School literature

By Carl M. White

Major changes are underway in two of the Baptist Sunday School Board's three curriculum series for 1996-97, according to Keith Wilkinson, director of the Sunday School Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

First, the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) is introducing two redesigned curriculum lines for the October-December 1996 quarter.

The "Convention Uniform Series" is being reintroduced as the "Family Bible Series."

The "Bible Book Series" is being reintroduced as the "Explore the Bible Series."

Secondly, June 1997 will begin a new arrangement of quarters for the publication of Sunday School literature. The new quarters will be September-November, December-February, March-May, and June-August.

The change means that for 1996-97 only, churches will order literature five times annually instead of four times.

The April-June 1997 quarter will be shortened to two months.

April and May. June-August is the start of the new quarterly alignment.

The introduction of the two redesigned curriculum series follows the 1994 introduction of a redesigned "Life and Work Series."

Sales of the "Life and Work Series" curriculum increased by 3% in the youth series and 1.4% in the adult versions after the release, according to the BSSB.

A similar increase in sales is hoped for with the redesign of the other two literature lines.

Wilkinson expects a favorable response from Mississippi churches to the redesigned literature.

Many of the changes that made the "Life and Work Series" more user-friendly will be incorporated in "Family Bible Series" and the "Bible Book Series," according to Wilkinson.

The "Family Bible Series" presents a uniform curriculum for all age groups.

Preschoolers through senior adults will follow the same biblical text, which will emphasize family relationships and other primary rela-

tionships, while utilizing the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible.

The "Explore the Bible Series," is designed only for youths and adults.

It will continue the emphasis on a systematic study of entire books of the Bible, but will also add overviews of the Old and New Testaments.

In addition to the KJV, the "Explore the Bible Series" will also use the New American Standard Bible.

Traditionally, age-graded Sunday School classes have promoted the first Sunday of October. In recent years many churches have moved promotion day to an earlier date, such as June or July, according to Wilkinson.

The BSSB is now recommending that promotion day be the first Sunday in September, and launch day be the second Sunday in September.

For more information, contact Wilkinson at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Baptists confront vast market for Sunday School literature

By Carl M. White

The primary goal of Sunday School is to bring people face to face with the timeless truths of God's Word. A critical tool for the task is a curriculum that presents scriptural truths in a relevant and teachable fashion.

Since the 1890's Southern Baptists have produced their own Sunday School literature. For decades, Southern Baptist churches shopped almost exclusively at the denominational store.

In recent years, however, new publishing houses and curricula have made the curriculum market highly competitive.

According to Keith Wilkinson, director of the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), there are very few churches in Mississippi not using Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) literature.

"Most often, it is in youth, children, or preschool divisions where you will find a church using some other curriculum. Most all adult classes use SBC material," Wilkinson said.

The BSSB has seen a slow decline in literature sales since 1983, according to Linda Lawson, BSSB director of communications.

This trend was partially reversed with the introduction of a redesigned "Life and Work Series" curriculum in the fall of 1994.

The BSSB hopes for a similar response to the redesign of its other two curriculum lines (see above article).

Updating the literature is a recognition of the reality that the BSSB no longer enjoys an exclusive market, according to Lawson.

"The major factor has been the economy," said Lawson. "Churches tell us that they have a certain amount of dollars to spend and that's all. If they pick up something new, they will have to drop something else," she said.

Today a church is likely to receive promotional

material from a number of publishers, such as Smyth & Helwys, David C. Cook Ministries, Scripture Press, and Standard Publishing.

Churches are being bombarded through the mail and over the phone, according to Wilkinson.

"There is a lot of high-powered promotion. It is very competitive," he said.

One of the key new entrants in the Sunday School literature market has been Smyth & Helwys, a Georgia publishing house founded in 1991 by

Southern Baptist moderates who became frustrated with the perceived theological and political perspective of the BSSB.

Although covering only a fraction of the market the BSSB enjoys, Smyth & Helwys has grown steadily in sales since its founding. Currently, sales are up 16.5% over the same period last year, according to Ben McDade, spokesman for Smyth & Helwys.

Sunday School literature may be a highly-competitive market, but it isn't a growing market. Even among Southern Baptists, who continue to have the strongest adult Bible study program of any religious body, literature sales have been declining.

There is a trend toward a smorgasbord approach that allows classes and departments to choose their own literature, according to Linda Thompson, senior coordinator of marketing for the BSSB's church growth group.

"There was a time when if one class used Life and Work, everyone used it," Thompson said.

Now a single church may use a mixture of the BSSB's three curriculum lines, she added.

Regardless of the choice, Thompson said churches' primary concerns about literature are:

- Being biblically based and educationally sound.
- User-friendliness, especially in teachers' guides.
- Economical: getting good value for their dollar.

There is a trend toward a smorgasbord approach that allows classes and departments to choose their own literature.
— Linda Thompson, BSSB

Mississippians lead the way... Southern Baptists begin push into war-weary Bosnian cities

WIESBADEN, Germany (BP) — Southern Baptists are responding to long sought peace in Bosnia by rushing foreign missionaries in to help the many people responding to the gospel there.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board expects to have four couples there by early September and two more by November in a response plan dubbed "Project Harvest Bosnia."

Three couples plan to transfer to Bosnia from western Europe. This unusual move comes because of the high response and because a year-old request for career missionaries has gone unfilled.

"The window of opportunity is presently open, but we do not know how long the cessation of war will last," said Mississippian **Larry Cox**, field associate area director for Europe. "Everything is moving at warp speed, but this is God's timing."

Cox, based in Wiesbaden, Germany, oversees Southern Baptist ministry throughout central Europe, including the former Yugoslavia region.

During the past four years of conflict, Southern Baptists have sent more than \$1.5 million in humanitarian aid through several Baptist-related relief agencies based in Croatia and Serbia.

Now, many who met Baptists and responded to the gospel in

refugee camps are back living in their homes in Bosnia.

"These contacts and others made by our Baptist brothers and sisters involved in relief work have provided us with a network of people all over Bosnia ready and waiting for someone to come and teach them about the Lord Jesus. Our objective is to start home Bible studies with some of them resulting in church starts," Cox said.

Wayne and Florence Fredericks of Mississippi and Louisiana, respectively, are scheduled to transfer from France.

Jim and Jean Leeper of Texas and Michigan, respectively, are expected to transfer from Germany.

Both couples anticipate serving in Tuzla, Bosnia, beginning in early September.

Evangelistic campaigns by Croatian Baptists in Tuzla earlier this year have produced some 100 new believers who have nobody to lead them, Cox said.

Robert and Jerry Worley of New Mexico and Texas, respectively, are expected to transfer to Sarajevo, Bosnia, from Spain.

Charles and Roberta Miller of Florida and Wisconsin, respectively, joined them there Sept. 2.

Another retired missionary couple who served in the South American country of Colombia is to arrive in November to open work in Banja Luka, a city in the Serb sector of Bosnia.

"It has been a joy to see veteran missionaries respond with enthusiasm to a need in an unsettled part of the world," Cox said.

"We are praying for (still) another missionary unit to join them for special field orientation the first of November," he added.

The missionaries will serve six-month terms, with the option of staying longer. Administrators hope during that time career workers will be led towards the region, Cox said.

Missionaries **Bill and Debbie Steele**, both of Georgia, have moved from Slovenia to the coastal city of Split, Croatia, so Steele can be better placed to coordinate the work within Bosnia.

Steele also has coordinated the Foreign Mission Board humanitarian aid program in the region.

Because of their rapid deployment, the transferring missionaries will take only brief courses in the Serbo-Croatian language. Each couple will work with a national ministry partner who will serve as their interpreter.

The missionaries will work with Bosnian Croats, Bosnian Muslims, and Bosnian Serbs, Cox said.

More personnel may be called for later to build upon the foundation begun this fall, he said.



Cox

Thursday, September 5, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



SS class gives to missionaries

Johnny Walker (left), pastor of First Church, Winona, watches as Mrs. David Pratt (center) receives a check from Billy Chesteen (right), president of the Kings Own Sunday School class. The gift is for missionaries Clifton and Cathy Curtis, serving in Burkino Faso. Mrs. Pratt is Cathy's mother.

Land cites intimidation as motive of PAW memo

WASHINGTON (BP) — Warnings to churches to avoid voter education materials are nothing more than election year posturing, according to religious liberty advocates.

The suit filed by the Federal Election Commission (FEC) alleging the Christian Coalition's violation of federal election statutes has begun to spill over to the local church as several organizations caution churches to stay clear of the Coalition's voter guides.

"We are writing to alert you of the serious threat to churches' tax-exempt charitable status that can be posed by... distribution of such materials," stated a memo by People for the American Way (PAW).

"Even if the Christian Coalition

voter guides pass muster under the FECA, they still could run afoul of the ban on politicking in the tax laws," suggested Brent Walker, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee.

It is difficult to not be suspicious of the FEC action as well as the attack on voter guides, said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"This is clearly an attempt to have a chilling effect on the distribution of voter guides in conservative and religious circles in this election cycle."

"I suspect that what the Christian Coalition is guilty of is being highly effective in informing voters, thus invoking the outrage of the various liberal elites," he said.

NOBTS finalizing plans for Sept. 12 revival call

NEW ORLEANS — "Turn Our Hearts Toward God" will be the theme on Thursday, Sept. 12, as New Orleans Seminary hosts area ministers, lay leaders, and church members on the final day of a series of calls for revival taking place across the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

At the request of SBC President Tom Elliff, each Southern Baptist seminary is sponsoring a day of prayer for revival together with a special chapel service on its campus.

New Orleans Seminary's events all will take place in Roland Q. Leavell Chapel. The day will begin with a prayer time at 7:30 a.m. before the regular session of academic classes are held. Visitors are welcome to join with the seminary's faculty, staff, and students during this initial session and during all succeeding events.

At 9:45 a.m. worship music will begin. Elliff, pastor of the First Southern Church of Del City, Okla., will be keynote speaker for the two-hour service.

Joining him will be Avery Willis, creator of the Masterlife discipleship curriculum and senior vice president for overseas operation for the Foreign Mission Board.

Special music will be presented by Ron and Patricia Owens, musicians in the Home Mission's Board's Department of Prayer and Spiritual Awakening.

Following the service, an afternoon meal will be available for purchase. Visitors to the campus are welcome to come as early and stay as long as they like.

Last November the seminary sponsored a 24-hour prayer and fasting vigil the week before Thanksgiving.

Since that time, an increased emphasis on revival has been an undercurrent at the seminary throughout the academic year, including daily student-led prayer times before the beginning of each school day and occasionally several hours of personal testimonies during the spring chapel service.

The seminary faculty has met daily for prayer before the beginning of classes since the founding of the school 79 years ago.

For more information, contact New Orleans Seminary's Center for Evangelism and Church Growth at (504) 282-4455, ext. 3320.

21st century church planting thrust announced by Home Mission Board

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., (BP) — Southern Baptists need a new paradigm for 21st-century church planting, said Charles Chaney, Home Mission Board (HMB) vice president for church extension.

"We need a Southern Baptist strategy of church multiplication which would entail thousands of churches committed to multiplying themselves by starting churches that would, in turn, start other congregations, reaching into every piece of the cultural, racial, socio-economic mosaic of North America," Chaney said as he announced a new "Church Planting System" to state missions directors Aug. 16.

Southern Baptists have started 3.1 churches a day since 1978, 3.6 a day since 1991, and four a day two of the last three years, but Chaney said that is not enough.

Citing a growth of Eastern religions, cults, and human secularism, what Chaney calls the established religion of the United States, he claimed "we desperately need new churches to reach these and all of the unreached people groups."

Russell Begaye, HMB director

of language church extension, agreed: "We work with 106 ethnic groups out of 600 that exist in the United States, and we are the most ethnically diversified denomination in the world."

"Though we are the most successful denomination in establish-

ing ethnic congregations and the fastest-growing denomination in evangelizing ethnic groups, we are losing the ethnic population to the secular world, and we are not able to keep up with the population explosion among ethnic groups," Begaye pointed out.

Evangelism teams needed in Venezuela in March 1997 for witnessing, preaching

Baptists in Venezuela are requesting 25 teams of two persons each to participate in an evangelistic effort in the South Central Baptist Association, which includes Valencia, Maracay, Calabozo, and Puerto Ayacucho.

The teams will work with missions which Venezuela Baptists are seeking to constitute into churches by December 1997.

The teams will conduct personal evangelism during the day and hold evangelistic meetings at night. Each team should consist of one person responsible for preaching in the evening services. Spouses will be teamed together.

Interpreters will be supplied, but each team member should have personal testimony in good Spanish.

For more information, contact the Partnership Missions Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson, (800) 748-1651.

Southern Baptist effort starts...

African-Americans sought for missions work

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Of approximately 55,000 American Christians serving as foreign missionaries throughout the world, only about 100 are African Americans.

Of Southern Baptists' career foreign missions force of 4,200, only seven are black, according to David Cornelius, black church relations consultant at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

After its establishment in 1845, the Southern Baptist Convention appointed 61 African Americans as foreign missionaries in its first 30 years.

In the 20th century, only 10 have been appointed.

A former foreign missionary to Ghana, Cornelius now focuses his energies on spreading the word among African American Southern Baptists that they are wanted and needed on the foreign mission field.

He took his message to Black Church Leadership Week, Aug. 19-23, at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

Despite these statistics, Cornelius is optimistic the future is

bright for African American Southern Baptists serving as career foreign missionaries.

"I'm happy to say I'm seeing change in more black Americans being interested in going to other parts of the world as missionaries," Cornelius said.

"I am convinced God is calling more," he added.

He noted that about 15 Southern Baptist African Americans presently are preparing for foreign missions service.

As many as six could be appointed in 1997.

"If all 15 get to the field, we will have more serving as career missionaries than anytime since the 1800s," Cornelius said.

As he travels throughout the nation visiting African American churches, Cornelius emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive missions education ministry for all ages.

"This has been critical to the success of Southern Baptists" in building a career foreign missions force, he said.

"Unfortunately I see in many Anglo churches a diminishing of missions education," he contended.

Cornelius affirmed churches that provide missions experiences for their members but emphasized the best results are gained when experience is coupled with education.

In addition to churches, he regularly visits colleges and seminaries looking for potential career missionaries.

Some young adults who've completed short-term service are

now exploring career missions.

In addition to his own efforts, Cornelius works with five volunteer field representatives and two volunteer missions assistants.

"I am convinced God is calling more African Americans to go halfway around the world," he said. "The world is our mission field."

African Americans interested in exploring foreign missions opportunities may contact Cornelius at 1-800-999-3113, ext. 1422.

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Staying Well Informed

Support Groups: Helping Weather The Storms

Perhaps you've been through a life-threatening illness, the loss of a loved one, or one of life's many other trials. One advantage of family and friends is that they may provide a source of comfort, support and assistance during tough times. Sometimes it's important to have an understanding ear, perhaps a shoulder to cry on.

But other times, you need more. Each circumstance is unique. Maybe those whom you would traditionally call upon can't quite understand. Their experiences have been different. People who have traveled the same road you're on can be a comforting source of support and empathy. Often support groups provide bridges that help ease transitions.

"Support from someone who's walked in similar shoes is important," says Baptist's Trudye Garraway, nursing administrative coordinator, mental health/oncology. "People who have experienced comparable situations are more able to listen non-judgmentally to those going through similar challenges."

Garraway adds that research has shown that support groups can actually increase a person's chances of recovery from cancer and other diseases. Another benefit — many support group members report making lifelong friendships from group participation.

Baptist offers support groups for those with breast cancer, prostate cancer, diabetes, asthma, lupus, stroke and heart problems. Perhaps you're grieving over the recent death of a loved one, a recent loss of a child or a miscarriage. Perhaps you are experiencing difficulties in conceiving a child, or preparing for menopause or for a hysterectomy. We have groups that help with these transitions. Many of our groups meet monthly and are available not only to patients and those experiencing difficulties, but their loved ones as well.

If you're going through one of these crises, please contact Baptist for information about joining a group. Chances are someone else has been there — and can help.

Understanding the Benefits of Support Groups

- Call 948-MBMC or 1-800-948-MBMC (6262) for reservations or more information.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

Neshoba County man, 90, realizes he needs Christ; seeks baptism at Antioch

By James Young

Clayton Jasper Townsend has worked hard all of his 90 years. The Newton County native has lived in the Antioch community in Neshoba County for 57 years.

Although not a large man physically, Townsend is a spiritual giant of a man. He has held several leadership positions in his 67 years of attending Antioch Church, including youth Sunday School teacher.

He has served as an ordained deacon for about 50 years.

Yet, Townsend laid aside human pride when he realized he was not saved, and he wanted to

get his house in order.

He came to Jesus and with the help of son Maurice, was baptized on the morning of July 7, 1996. It was such a great day in the church that all active deacons were involved in the baptism.

A dedicated church worker, deacon, father, and Christian, he is one of the most respected members of the community.

Clayton Jasper Townsend was born Oct. 10, 1905, and now he's born again.

Young is pastor of Antioch Church, Neshoba Association.



New man in Christ

Clayton Jasper Townsend (center), 90, accepted Jesus and was baptized July 7 at Antioch Church, Neshoba Association. James Young (left), pastor of Antioch Church, baptized Townsend. Also on hand for the baptism was Tony Rigdon (right), Townsend's great-grandson. (BP special photo)



Two William Carey College (WCC) students recently represented the Omicron Sigma Chapter of Delta Omicron, an international honorary music fraternity, at the Triannual Conference held at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. Kim Malone (right) of Louisville, Ky., president of the chapter, is a senior at WCC; Kelly Hennington (left) of Petal, is a junior music therapy major. Delta Omicron strives to promote good musicianship, citizenship, and service to the community.

BUDGET

From page 3

position of associate director.

The MBCB allocation of \$8,410,941 includes \$460,667 for board capital needs and \$50,000 for student center capital needs.

The convention board owns 14 of the 19 Baptist student centers around the state.

Upchurch reported that other

than small funding changes in various MBCB departments, the only other budget change of note is a decrease in evangelism promotion, due to a one year project which places funding for the annual Evangelism Conference into a work team budget.

Various MBCB teams function in such areas as witness training, Bible study provision, and equipping for service.

In a question and answer session at the close of the board meeting, MBCB's executive director-treasurer Bill Causey said plans for a joint MBCB/MBMC retirement village project are presently on hold while the medical center seeks a replacement for former executive director Kent Strum, who resigned earlier this year.

COMMITTEE

From page 3

management letters.

Management letters contain information concerning any recommendations or problems with audits.

Larry Otis of Tupelo, chair of the Clarke Special Study Committee, reported that sale of the property of the defunct Clarke College in Newton to the Mississippi State Department of Mental Health (DMH) is on track.

Clarke College was the only Baptist affiliated junior college in the state, and is owned by Mississippi Baptists.

DMH, which has entered into a \$25,000 option for the property, plans to transform the campus into a resident facility for adults 35 and up who need limited supervision.

DMH will ask the 1997 session of the Mississippi Legislature to fund the \$1,000,000 purchase price. Renovations will likely amount to \$2-3 million, and up to 200 persons will be employed.

DMH said Mississippi Lt. Governor Ronnie Musgrove, who presides over the state Senate, and Speaker of the House Tim Ford, who presides over the state House of Representatives, assured him they would support legislative funding for the purchase.

Otis predicted the sale should be finalized by March or April of next year.

In the meantime, Otis reported, DMH will provide maintenance and security for the property. The MBCB will still be obligated to maintain insurance and liability at a cost of about \$7,800 per year.

The two fundraising projects approved by the committee were for the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village and for an adult lodge at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, the state's Girls in Action campground managed by the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

The Children's Village requested permission to seek 365 Mississippi Baptist churches willing to provide one day's funding for the Village, estimated to be \$7,000-\$7,500.

Ronnie Robinson, executive director of the Children's Village, said the campaign will kick off

during the Mississippi Baptist Convention in October, with pledging in 1997 — the centennial of the Children's Village.

The second special campaign will allow WMU to begin asking church WMU groups to aid in financing the \$1.2 million adult lodge at Camp Garaywa.

WMU leaders have said demand for adult meetings at Camp Garaywa has outstripped the current capabilities of the centrally-located facility.

Marjean Patterson, WMU executive director, said \$300,000 from the WMU reserve fund will be used for the project. The reserve fund comes from 10% of campers' fees that are placed in reserve each year.

Patterson said WMU will dedicate the site on March 18, 1997, during the WMU annual meeting.

The executive committee also approved up to \$17,000 from the MBCB operating account for repairs to the staff house swimming pool at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian.

The group approved a plan proposed by the MBCB personnel committee to meet with the MBCB executive director-treasurer to review reports and the year of work in order to make recommendations to the executive committee for the executive director-

treasurer's merit salary increases.

The review would be in line with the MBCB policy that allows department directors to make similar recommendations concerning their employees.

The executive committee approved Doug Christy of Tishomingo Association and Mary Buckner of North Delta Association to replace MBCB members Tommy Purvis, who moved to Kentucky, and Carl White, who accepted the position of associate editor of "The Baptist Record."

The executive committee also approved:

— study leave for Don Wilson, director of the MBCB Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department. He will begin work next summer on a doctor of ministry in missions administration degree at Golden Gate Seminary in San Francisco.

— service leave for Linda Reeves, preschool and children's consultant in the MBCB Sunday School Department. She will provide preschool and children's consulting service for Colorado Baptists, with whom Mississippi Baptists currently maintain a partnership missions project.

MBCB policy allows staff to apply for up to four months of study or service leave every seven years.

Letters to the editor

Check retirement

Editor:

I recently received some shocking news about my Plan A funds — I had several thousand dollars in retirement funds that I did not know existed.

Along with other participants, I had not read the fine print on my quarterly accounting statements (lower right corner, middle paragraph) which reads, "In addition to the accounts shown here, you have Plan A participation which will provide a formula benefit at retirement."

A phone call to the Annuity Board revealed that I had as much in Plan A funds as I had in my Accumulated account funds, doubling the money I thought I had for retirement.

Subsequent conversations with the Annuity Board revealed

several options in handling this new-found treasure:

— Plan A funds could be transferred to my accumulated account.

— If past age 55-1/2, I could withdraw all or any part of Plan A funds.

— Plan A funds can be withdrawn on a monthly basis for the rest of my life, and the life of my spouse.

— There may be other options.

I share this information because I have discovered that many pastors do not know about old Plan A funds. Call the Annuity Board at (800) 262-0511; they will be glad to tell you what you have and explain your options.

Joe Herndon, pastor
Fredonia Church
New Albany

Thanks for hymnals

Editor:

Our church would like to thank everyone who responded to our ad in The Baptist Record requesting (donation of) hymnals. Thank you!

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Turn Our Hearts Toward God A CALL TO REVIVAL

Our Southern Baptist Family is invited to join us in this special day of prayer
Thursday, September 12
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Morning Prayer begins at 7:30 a.m.
Music for Worship begins at 9:45 a.m.
Special Service begins at 10 a.m.

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Dr. Avery Willis, Guest Speaker
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Just for the Record



First Church, Lambert, recently recognized children involved in its mission organizations. Those honored (left to right) were: front row, Michael Prestwich, Randy Jones, Drew Schiele, Joel Huber, John Robertson, John Cameron Corbin; second row, Lindsey Corbin, Melissa Jones, Sarah Prestwich, Matthew Huber, Jim Robertson, Kyle Corbin; third row, Iman Fayyad, Michelle Jones, Chloe Prestwich, Leigh Ann Coker; back row, Shane Mitchell, Kellen Corbin, Keith McCullar, Daniel Huber, Kaysey Corbin, and Vicki Mitchell. Stephen J. Huber is pastor.



First Church, Leakesville, recently recognized its children's and youth missions organizations. **Mission Friends** (top photo) who received awards were (left to right): Hannah Walters, Seth Kettleman, Charly Rogers, Andrea Williams, Weldon Rogers, Bryce Kettleman, and Seth Walters. Leaders are Cindy Hodges and Cheri Culpepper.

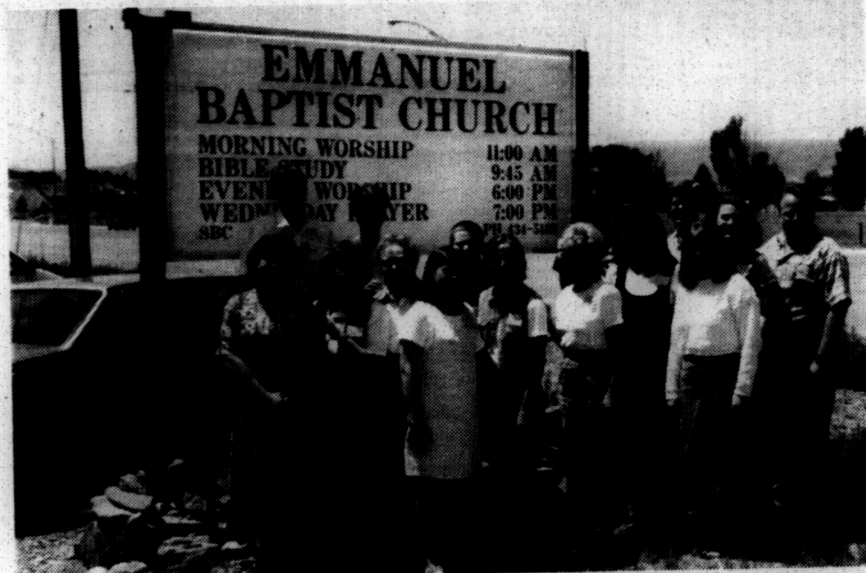
GAs (middle photo) who received Mission Adventure award were (left to right): first row, Jenah Holland, Summer Dunnam, Megan Hodges, Hannah Hicks; second row, Stacey Neely, Sheena Neely, Dalee Bridges, Tia Hodges, Jennifer Cooley, and Megan Smith. GA leaders are Cindy Kettleman and Shannon Walters.

Acteens (above) who received awards for completion of StudiAct were (left to right): Queen with Scepter, Susanna Hight and Kristina Toothaker; Queens receiving crowns, Stacey Rhoden, Alaina Smith, Joni Cooley, Kim Reid, Bridget Dickson, and Mandy Gilley. Not pictured are Acteens Hope Rutland, Kela Douglas, Heather Cowart, April Bullard, and Ambria Holder. Acteen advisors are Arlena Gilley, Marty Turner and Sandy Hight, assistant. Jimmy Kettleman Jr. is pastor.

Union Church, Puckett, will host Marcus Burnham of Ellisville as guest speaker on Sept. 8, during the 11 a.m. worship service. Burnham appears as part of the church's state missions emphasis. Brent Bozeman is pastor; Sammy Neely is music director.

Antioch Church, Union, will hold a gospel singing on Sept. 7, beginning at 7 p.m. Featured singers will be The Hoppers of Madison, N.C. A love offering will be taken. James Young is pastor.

Shirley Berry of Water Valley will be in concert at **Trinity Church, Pearl,** at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 29. There will be a covered dish lunch in the fellowship hall following the concert. Kenneth Goff is pastor.



Mantee Church, Webster Association, conducted four Back Yard Bible Clubs at Emmanuel Church of Grand Junction, Colo., this summer. Participants were (left to right): front row, Ann Stone, Norma Faulkner, Sybil Carty, Danna Stone, Amber Forrester, June Nolen, Laura Stone, Amanda Wilker, Emily Harrington, Kinsey Goldman, minister of music and youth; second row, Gail Crump, Joetta Tillman, Doug Wilson, Ryan Avent, and Thomas Nolen. Ken Hester is pastor of Mantee Church.

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and above) and experience in child/family care or related field, be knowledgeable in pertinent issues, be a capable spokesperson and advocate, possess demonstrated management/ leadership skills and a vision for the future in this field of service. Competitive package, negotiable with demonstrated ability. Send applications/resumes to: H.R. Booth, 6296 Saddle Ridge, Burlington, KY 41005-9602.

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Homecomings

Damascus, Hazlehurst: Sept. 15; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, 12 p.m.; afternoon singing, 1 p.m. with various singers from community churches; David Patterson, pastor, speaker.

Paul Tamm Memorial, Pearl: Sept. 14 and 15; 50th anniversary; Saturday, banquet, 5-8:30 p.m.; Sunday, morning services and covered dish lunch; Ted Dukes, pastor.

Bigbee, Amory: Sept. 15; 10 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:30; fellowship time 11 a.m.; R.J. Wilemon, speaking; lunch at noon; Gospel Ship quartet singing at 1:30 p.m.; Tommy Whaley, pastor.

Furrs, Pontotoc: Sept. 8; Senior Adult Day; Johnny Huey, guest speaker; noon luncheon; Buddy and Kay Bain, afternoon music; Walter M. Simmons, pastor.

Holly Bluff: Sept. 8; worship service, 10:45 a.m.; Malcolm Massey, guest speaker; covered dish dinner following service; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.

Sylvarena, Wesson: Sept. 8; worship service, 11 a.m.; Donnie Payne, former pastor, guest speaker; covered covered dish luncheon following service; afternoon singing, 1:30; Richard King, pastor.

Killinger leaves Samford; appeals lawsuit dismissal

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP) — Samford University professor John Killinger resigned the university in June, but his religious discrimination suit against the school that was dismissed last spring is in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Killinger filed suit in federal court in 1994 claiming he was banned from teaching at the Beeson Divinity School because his theological beliefs were too moderate. Killinger said he was hired in 1989 to teach in the religion and English departments at Samford as well as to teach preaching to graduate students at the divinity school.

Killinger charged religious discrimination under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act after Timothy George, dean of the divinity school, refused to let Killinger teach at Beeson. Killinger had taught some non-required courses in the divinity school.

"I stayed as long as I felt I could," Killinger said. "But I was doing things that were not first on my agenda."

Killinger, who had taught at Vanderbilt University before Samford, is now pastor of a small

chapel in Michigan and will continue writing and speaking.

Killinger's lawyer, Robert Baugh, said a favorable ruling from the court would allow Killinger to seek damages for his alleged discrimination. Baugh said Killinger has no plans to return to the university or divinity school.

Revival Results

Pleasant Hill (Leake): Aug. 11-14; Joe Abel, Carthage, evangelist; Pam Bell, Bogalusa, La., music; one profession of faith; Paul G. Cain, pastor.

Damascus, Hazlehurst: Aug. 11-16; Pat Bufkin, Glen McInnis, Robert Netterville, Leroy Brewer Jr., Larry Hart, Steve Abercrombie, Daryl Oster, evangelists; five professions of faith; David Patterson, pastor.

Liberty Hill, Pope: Aug. 11-16; Gary Jackson, Sturgis, evangelist; Frank West, Batesville, music; six professions of faith; James Lee Bailey, pastor.

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Clinton signs measure to simplify church pensions, encourage adoption

WASHINGTON (ABP) — A highly publicized bill signed into law by President Clinton Aug. 20 does more than raise the nation's minimum wage.

Tucked into the 163-page measure on small business reform were several provisions simplifying church-pension laws, as well as new tax incentives to encourage the adoption of children.

Clinton said the new law, which will raise the minimum wage by 50 cents in October and by another 40 cents in September 1997 and provides a range of benefits for U.S. small businesses, is "pro-work, pro-business, and pro-family."

Church pension boards have long sought changes contained in the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996.

The law clarifies that retirement benefits from church pension plans are not subject to self-employment tax (SECA), the 15.3% tax collected from ministers and other self-employed individuals for Social Security purposes.

Religious groups sought the provision after the Internal Revenue Service issued an internal opinion that the portion of retirement benefits allocated for a minister's housing allowance was subject to the SECA tax, according to Washington attorney David Starr. Starr represents the Church Alliance, an umbrella organization for 28 denominational pension boards. The clarification applies retroactively to the start of 1995.

In changes that take effect Jan. 1, the new law also states that chaplains and self-employed ministers can participate in church pension plans, allows direct pension contributions on behalf of foreign missionaries, and exempts church pension plans from anti-discrimination rules that apply to secular employers.

Allowing mission organizations to make direct pension contributions on behalf of foreign missionaries will reduce an "administrative nightmare," Starr said. To receive the greatest tax benefit under the current law, employers now must send funds to missionaries who in turn contribute to a

pension account.

The new law authorizes, but does not require, the Secretary of the Treasury to provide a "safe harbor" for church plans from discrimination rules that ensure pension plans don't benefit higher-paid employees at the expense of those who are lower paid. Sponsors of the bill hope the provision will allow the Treasury Department to develop non-discrimination rules more suitable for church plans.

The law also expands options for nonprofit organizations offering tax-deferred retirement plans. It allows nonprofit groups, including churches, to offer 401(k) plans. It also relaxes rules that

have limited participants in 403(b) tax-sheltered annuities offered by nonprofit groups to one annual adjustment in the amount of salary deferred for retirement.

To facilitate adoption, the new law creates a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for legal fees, court costs, and other expenses associated with adoption of a child. The tax-credit amount is \$6,000 in the case of a child with special needs. The law also allows the same amounts in employer-provided adoption assistance to be excluded from income. Both the tax credit and exclusion begin phasing out when a family's adjusted gross income exceeds \$75,000 and are fully phased out at \$115,000.

God's Plan for Your Life

God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.

I am come that they might have life, and that they have it more abundantly — John 10:10

However, you might not be experiencing the abundant life because sin creates a separation between you and God's plan for your life.

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God — Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death — Romans 6:23a

Human efforts to end this separation, such as living a good life or various religions, all fail. There is only one solution. Jesus Christ is God's answer to this separation.

But demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us — Romans 5:8

He is our only way to God.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me — John 14:6

A person must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior to find and experience God's wonderful plan.

But as many received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name — John 1:12

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast — Ephesians 2:8,9

How to receive Christ:

1. Admit your need for God
2. Be willing to repent (turn away from) your sins.
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins and rose from the grave.
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus to come into your life.

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact your local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Revival Dates

Trinity, Pearl: Sept. 15-18; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Otis Jackson, evangelist; Joe Wood, music; Kenneth Goff, pastor.

Crossroads, Pelahatchie: September 8-13; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.;

Richard Bradley, Jackson, evangelist; Alvynn Moore, Union, music; Robert L. (Bobby) Smith, pastor.

Pinola (Simpson): Sept. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. worship, dinner on the grounds, 6 p.m. study on Philippians, 7 p.m. concert by Tom Smith; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tues., Women on Mission luncheon, 12 p.m.; Tom Smith, evangelist; Christ Stewart, pastor.

Pine Grove (Neshoba): Sept. 8-11; 11 a.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. nightly; Phil Smith, Meridian, evangelist; Mike Calvert, music; Richie Davis, pastor.

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Uniform Beginning again



By Jim Phillips
2 Kings 3

Eventually the time comes for each of us when that closet in our house has to be cleaned out. We didn't intend for it to go neglected for so long but it became so easy just to toss things in there. The day of reckoning arrives and we head in there to see what we can find worth keeping. Every time I have gone through that exercise (far too many times, I'm afraid), I discover something that I had misplaced or had thought was stolen or lost. Much to my surprise it had been with me all the time, but due to my neglect it had gone unnoticed.

The lesson for consideration this week results from a similar circumstance. A young king named Josiah was in the process of leading a reform movement in Judah. His grandfather Manasseh had made a royal mess of the whole kingdom. He had led out in neglecting the covenant and the Word of God among the people of Judah for 55 years. Over that period of time, every possible sin imaginable and unimaginable had befallen the nation. Eighteen years into his reign at age 26, Josiah began to try and right some of the wrongs which his grandfather and his father had allowed to take root. The nation was in absolute ruin morally and spiritually.

Josiah had become king at the age of 8. He eventually sought to mentor his life after David instead of his own father (2 Kings 22:2). By so doing, he experienced a personal revival that eventually reached over into the whole nation. During the physical cleanup of the temple, portions of the Book of the Law were uncovered (2 Kings 22:8). When the law was read before his throne, Josiah immediately responded with a show of abject repentance and confession.

The portion of the law of God that had been discovered predicted that God's people would suffer the severe judgment of God on their lives if they ever failed to live up to their part of God's established covenant with Judah. Josiah knew that without divine intervention, destruction was imminent. However, God did respond favorably to Josiah's plea and for a period of time God used him to bring about major reform throughout the nation (2 Kings 22:18-20).

When the time came for Josiah to inform the people about what God was doing, he began with having the discovered scriptures read before the people (23:1-2). In that crowd were people completely ignorant of God's previous covenant with their ancestors. God had promised peace and prosperity to those who remained faithful and destruction for the disobedient. When God's promises were thus revealed, the people pledged their obedience (v. 3).

I believe the Word of God is still intended for such an impact. Something divine happens when people become convicted by the truths of God. The end result was a campaign across the nation to clean up the atrocities and sins that had been being committed against God. Josiah had destroyed everything that reeked of false worship including the priests and priestesses who led out in such pagan activities. His total obedience to his renewed life before God was evident by the action which he took.

You and I cannot do what we know to do apart from God's Word speaking to us. At the same time our families, church and communities will go away and apart from God without biblical directive and purpose. Whenever the Word of God is read or heard, God holds us responsible for the actions that follow based on exposure to his truths. To neglect its truths is to suffer the judgment of God either immediately or over time, like Judah.

Though your life or family may resemble a closet that has gone untended or unkept and has thus become cluttered with godless activity and behavior, it is possible to experience renewal and revival. Begin right now exposing yourself to a proper diet of God's Word. Take seriously your responsibility for reading and meditating upon it daily.

Confess known sin to God and be careful to point out where your own family has abandoned God's Word or his church. Lead by example just the way King Josiah did. Only as he placed his own life before God could he then impact a whole nation for him. God offers his Son as the place for beginning again. Clean out that closet!

Phillips is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

Bible Book The fall of Babylon



By Ronald Bishop
Revelation 17, 18

Judgment upon Rome foretold (17:1-2). After the pouring out of the seven bowls of God's wrath, one of the seven angels having the bowls appeared to John with an invitation. He invited John to come and see the judgment of the great harlot. The great harlot surely is a reference to the city of Rome, the great capital of the evil empire. The harlot is described as seated upon many waters, a reference to the great extent of the Roman Empire's influence in the world. Rome also is described as a harlot "with whom all the kings of the earth have committed fornication." Fornication often is used in the Bible as a euphemism for rebellion against God. Rome had enticed or forced other governments to aid her in conquest and had beguiled other peoples with her paganism. John refers to the enemies of God as "dwellers on earth" who have become drunk with the wine of fornication with Rome.

Judgment upon Rome seen (17:3-18). In the spirit John beheld the harlot. She was sitting on a scarlet beast (the Roman empire) full of blasphemous names, probably the names of the emperors who demanded to be worshipped as God. The beast had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was a picture of wealth and luxury, holding a cup full of abominations and evil. She is identified by a mark on her forehead: Babylon the great. Babylon was the city in which God's people in the Old Testament were held captive. In the New Testament, Rome was the wicked city. John wrote in symbolism for apocalyptic effect as well as for safety from further persecution. The harlot was drunk with the blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus. Rome had shed so much Christian blood that — were it wine — it would have made all the empire drunk.

John marveled at the vision, but the angel interpreted it partially. The beast now represents the dead Emperor Nero who was expected by many people to return to life. The seven heads are the seven mountains surrounding the city of Rome. The seven heads also represent seven emperors. Five have lived and died. One (Domitian) was on the throne at the time of John's writing. John suggested that only one more emperor would reign, and then only briefly, before God would defeat the Romans completely. The ten kings of verse 12 probably refer to local authorities, not emperors of the empire. All these local rulers are loyal to the empire and its emperors. They have some authority but they are subservient to the beast. The Christians should not expect any improvement in their situation with a change in local administration. All the local leaders assist the beast in making war against Jesus and his followers. But Jesus will defeat them because he is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. John makes it clear that those who are with Jesus must remain faithful. The faint-hearted and weak in faith do not deserve to receive a reward from God.

John then wrote of his expectation that the empire would begin to crumble due to internal strife. The local authorities and the beast would become disenchanted with the harlot and hate her. God would use them to accomplish his purpose of destroying his enemies. Lest John's readers wonder who the harlot is, he identified her quite clearly. She is "the great city which has dominion over the kings of the earth." No city during John's lifetime would have qualified for this description except Rome.

Rome's fall: The announcement (18:1-24). John then saw another authoritative angel bringing a great announcement: Rome had fallen. Actually, Rome had not yet fallen. But the ancients believed that a word spoken took on a life of its own. With the prophecy uttered, the deed was as good as done. Some Christians would suffer before Rome would actually fall, but the victory was in the bag. John reminded God's people that they must separate themselves from the iniquity of Rome, for God was judging her (v. 4). The kings of the earth who had so admired Rome would weep and wail at her fall (v. 9). Merchants would lament at the great financial catastrophe resulting from Rome's fall (v. 11). The angel then threw a great millstone into the sea, signifying Rome's fall. The city would be utterly destroyed because of her opposition to God and his people. Verse 24 sums up God's reason for destroying Rome: she was guilty of shedding the blood of his people.

Bishop teaches philosophy and religion at Jones County Junior College, Ellisville.

Life and Work Faith's confidence



By Cynthia Douglas
Hebrews 3-5

Do you find joy in your relationship to Jesus? Do you go through the day focused on Jesus regardless of earthly circumstances? Do you desire to develop a confident faith? In Matthew 11:26, Jesus said, "Learn from me." He wants us focused on him, communing with him in prayer, and knowing him in an intimate relationship.

The writer of Hebrews gives four ways we can develop a confident faith. Remember, the writer teaches that Jesus is the supreme revelation of God and the only access to God. Jesus is superior to the prophets, to the angels and in this chapter we see how Jesus was superior to Moses. Jesus is Lord!

Fix your thoughts on Jesus (3:12). The first way to develop a confident faith is to fix your thoughts on Jesus (v. 1). Jesus is seen in two ways — first, as an apostle. An apostle is one who is sent forth. Jesus came speaking God's Word, and revealing God in every way to man. Second, Jesus is seen as a high priest — the one who speaks to God for men and speaks to men for God.

As believers, we are "holy brothers who share in the heavenly calling" (v. 1a). Our focus must be on Jesus and our spiritual inheritance. Believers need to let go of earthly entanglements which are barriers to our relationship to God. The writer challenges us to focus on Jesus each day and to know the joy of this relationship.

Determine to be faithful (3:12-14). The second way to develop a confident faith is to determine to be faithful. In verses 7-11 he uses the illustration of the children of Israel refusing to enter the promised land as God told them to do.

Verse 12 gives a warning against rejecting God. The greatest sin is unbelief, the turning away from God. Believers develop a confident faith when they resist turning away from God's plan for their lives. Verse 13 exhorts believers to be encouragers which means to come alongside to give help. Not only are believers to be encouragers, but also to help others beware of the treachery of sin. Believers are to be faithful.

Seek Jesus' help (4:14-16). The third aspect of a confident faith is to seek Jesus' help. Verse 14 appeals to the Jews to trust Jesus. The writer gives three facts about Jesus and how he can help. First, Jesus was the "great high priest who passed through the heavens" (v. 14). The sacrifices in the Old Testament system were never ended or completed until Jesus came because the sacrifices were not perfect. Jesus made the perfect sacrifice on the cross. By faith in Jesus, our sin is covered and we enter into God's presence.

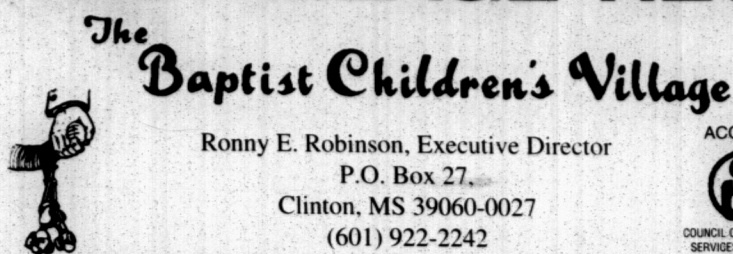
Second, Jesus was the perfect human. He understands and sympathizes with our weaknesses. He is our only source of help. Third, Jesus provides grace (v. 16), the wonderful unmerited favor of God which provides our salvation. What a helper! He takes us as sinners and makes us children of God.

Be obedient (5:7-9). The fourth way to a confident faith is to be obedient. Obedience is hearing and following instructions from God and is expected of all believers. Verse 7 describes the prayers and the tears of Jesus as he prayed about the coming cross. He was not asking to avoid the cross and death. Rather, he was revealing his full humanity and his obedience to God.

Verse 8 says even though Jesus was God in the flesh, he suffered and learned the full cost of obedience. The obedience described in verse 9 is simply the work of faith — to trust him as a personal Savior. Jesus made the perfect atonement, therefore, as we have faith in him, he provides eternal salvation. In John 6:29, Jesus says: "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." Therefore, believers who are obedient to God develop a confident faith.

Douglas is a member of First Church, Columbus.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director
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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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MAY 31, 1996**

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Mrs. Patricia Cochran
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Mrs. Edna Marion
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Mrs. W. R. Newman Jr.
Mr. Myrl McCormick
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Mr. Leonard Ross
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Ad Rutledge
Mrs. Mary E. Reese
Mr. A. E. Rutledge
Mrs. Elyne H. Fryer

(to be continued)



Tim and Heather Phippen from Ellisville joined the BCV staff as Child Care workers at the India Nunnery Campus on June 24, 1996.



Ed Nixon, Unit Director for BCV Farrow Manor Campus in Independence, awards Judy Scruggs, Secretary at Farrow Manor Campus, her 5-year service pin.

capsules

OKLAHOMA EDUCATOR PAT TAYLOR NAMED PRESIDENT AT SBU: BOLIVAR, Mo. (ABP) — Trustees of Southwest Baptist University elected Oklahoma educator C. Pat Taylor as president of the Baptist school in Bolivar, Mo., Aug. 20. Taylor, 50, comes to the presidency from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla., where he is provost. Taylor succeeds outgoing president Roy Blunt, who is leaving the post he held since 1993 to seek election to Congress this fall.

LONGTIME SEMINARY LIBRARIAN DIES FOLLOWING ILLNESS: FORT WORTH (ABP) — Keith Wills, longtime librarian at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, died July 27 after an illness. He was 78. Wills retired in 1984 after 18 years as library director at the seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Before that he was founding librarian at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., from 1958 to 1966.

STATE-RUN LOTTERIES TAKE IN \$26 BILLION: WASHINGTON (ABP) — Americans spent \$26.6 billion on state-run lotteries in 1994, according to a Census Bureau report. According to the report, states reported \$9.7 billion in profits from lotteries. State lotteries took in \$26.6 billion and paid out \$15.3 billion in prizes, while administrative costs ran to \$1.5 billion. In comparison, Americans spent more on lotteries than they gave to churches. According to the 1995 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, total contributions to congregations was \$19.6 billion. Giving to benevolences, which includes missions, accounted for \$3.8 billion of the total.

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OUSTS CHURCH OVER WOMAN'S ORDINATION: SIKESTON, Mo. (BP) — The executive board of Charleston Baptist Association in Missouri voted Aug. 19 to withdraw fellowship from First Church, Sikeston, Mo., over the ordination of a Sikeston woman to the gospel ministry. Sikeston ordained Billie Fair March 31. Fair graduated from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., in May with a master of divinity degree. She has served as the church's outreach director and has said she hopes to become a hospital chaplain.

MARSHALL ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AS KENTUCKY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — William W. Marshall has announced his intention to retire as executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Feb. 28, 1997, nine days after his 65th birthday. In retirement, Marshall and his wife, Alice, will serve as the first coordinators of the new Marshall Center for Ministry at Georgetown College in Georgetown, Ky. The center, which was named for them, has a five-fold mission related to issues of theology, academics, family, missions, and leadership.



Ministers' wives elect officers

The 1996-97 officers of the national Ministers' Wives Fellowship held their annual planning meeting Aug. 19-20 at Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) national headquarters in Birmingham, Ala. WMU is one of the Southern Baptist Convention entities which help sponsor the work of the Ministers' Wives Fellowship. Present at the meeting were: (seated, from left) Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director; Marcie Hatfield, vice president, Lewisville, Texas; (standing, from left) Peggy Walker, treasurer, Elizabethtown, Ky.; Jo Ann Berger, corresponding secretary, Hattiesburg; and Delores Taylor, president, Gainesville, Ga. (WMU photo by Dan Bryan)

NSM director: Southern Baptists need to reach the "college market"

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Southern Baptists should take a hint from the corporate world and make an investment in college students a priority.

So says Bill Henry, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) National Student Ministry.

He recently returned from a marketing conference in New York City that was focused on how to reach the college market and develop brand loyalty.

"When students go to college, they've basically been using the

brands that Mom liked," Henry said, referring to information gathered at the marketing conference.

"But 30% of all college freshmen change their brand loyalty during their first year in college, and by the time they are seniors, 85% of them will have switched brands.

"Corporations are realizing if they can invest in students and secure their brand loyalty, they have an excellent chance of keeping them as customers as adults and reaping the profits of

their investment year after year," Henry continued.

"If we can help Southern Baptists catch a vision for reaching college students, our denomination will reap the rewards for years to come," Henry said in an interview during Student Week Aug. 10-16 at Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico. "If we don't we could lose our impact in the next generation."

Southern Baptists have student work on about 1,000 of the nation's 3,575 college and university campuses, said Henry, quoting from the Institute for International Research.

About 14 million students will enroll in college or graduate school this fall; about 16.6 million are expected to enroll during the fall semester of 2005.

Too many people have the attitude that college students will be trying so many things that it's a waste to spend money on them, Henry said.

"Their attitude seems to be to let them sow their wild oats now, and minister to them when they're more approachable.

"Sometimes I don't think Southern Baptists understand or appreciate the mission field of college students," he continued.

"They are more reachable now than they'll ever be. They're idealistic — they want something to be called to that is significant, that is important," he pointed out.

One role of the National Student Ministry is to keep the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) as a denomination aware of the needs of college students, Henry said.

"If I don't take a pro-active role, they (the Southern Baptist Convention) are so busy they could go months without thinking about college students," Henry said.

"I was won to the Lord as a freshman in college. I know firsthand the importance of college ministry. The ministry we're in is a holy ministry," he stressed.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My adult sister's entire world revolves around her pet Schnauzer. She has little contact these days with friends and family. What should I say to her?

First, do not make an issue of the Schnauzer. Next, get her to spend time with you, even if the dog has to come along. As she broadens her activities, you can suggest that she leave Fido at home. You must understand that the dog may be the only object with which your sister feels completely safe — a security blanket. Has your sister been hurt by another person? She may have chosen to withdraw to her Schnauzer rather than continue to reach out to people. Talk with her about your personal relationship with Christ, and encourage her to attend church. That would be another way to draw her from her dependency on the pooch and move her into other relationships. She will learn more from your tenderness and patience than from force or frustration.

I recently found out my older brother (we're both teenagers) is doing harmful things that could kill him. I don't know whether or not to tell my parents.

When you find your brother doing these things, let him know that you love him so much that you must tell your parents before a tragedy occurs. He won't like hearing that and will probably bargain with you, saying, "I'll never do it again." Don't believe him. He is crying out for help. Are you willing to risk his anger to save his life? Your brother needs someone to whom he can talk. If your parents have difficulty talking with him, be prepared to suggest someone to whom your brother will listen — Christian counselor, pastor, church youth leader, Sunday School teacher, coach, relative, etc. Parents cannot always be objective in these situations, which increases the importance of surrounding children with proper role models and influential adults.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Bibliocipher

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LWD OCWZ QDO QH CWFI KGWKFG ZHOW OCG
FWDU OCI SWU: OCG FWDU OCI SWU CQOC
BCWAGH OCGG OW XG Q AKGBVQF KGWKFG
ZHOW CVEAGFL, QXWPG QFF KGWKFG OCQO
QDG ZKWH OCG LQBG WL OCG GQDOC.

UGZOGDWHWEI AGPGH: AVN.

This week's clue: I equals Y.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Revelation Twenty-two: Twelve.

Baptist Record

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